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U.S. INFLATION AT A TIPPING POINT, SOARS TO 40-YR HIGH

The core consumer price index, which excludes food and energy, increased 6.6% from a year ago, the highest level since 1982

HOUSEHOLDS HIT AS RENT COSTS SHOOT UP

From a month earlier, the core CPI climbed 0.6% for a second month. The overall CPI rose 0.4% in September compared to August even as the annual rate moderated to 8.2% from 8.3%. High inflation means more burden for families as their grocery bills, utility costs and rents will up. Housing rents rose by 0.8% — the largest rise since June 1990 — wiping out pay gains

EXPECT FED TO RAISE RATES NEXT MONTH

- Policy makers follow core inflation closely as a reflection of broad, underlying inflation and as a predictor of future inflation
- The US Federal Reserve has been aggressively raising interest rates to slow price increases. The Fed is expected to deliver a fourth 75-basis points interest rate hike next month | P12

2%

FED'S INFLATION TARGET, WHILE THE CURRENT RATE IS 4 TIMES THAT NUMBER

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TRICHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

SPLIT TOP COURT VERDICT ON HIJAB ROW

Antithesis to secularism or just a matter of choice? CJI to assign the case to an appropriate bench

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

A two-judge bench of the Supreme Court on Thursday delivered a split verdict on pleas against the Karnataka High Court upholding the state government's bar on hijab in educational institutions. They sent the matter to the Chief Justice of India to set up a larger bench to settle the matter.

While Justice Hemant Gupta upheld the ban saying the hijab was an antithesis to secularism, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia said wearing it was just a matter of choice.

Justice Gupta said the government order (GO) that directed schools in Karnataka to follow the prescribed uniform, excluded all religious symbols visible to the naked eye. "Anything worn by the students under his/her shirt cannot be said to be objectionable in terms of GO issued," he added.

"Secularism is applicable to all citizens, therefore, permitting one religious community to wear their religious symbols would be antithesis to secularism," Justice Gupta said.

In contrast, Justice Dhulia ordered quashing of the GO saying the ban was against the constitutional value of fraternity and integrity.

"Under our Constitutional scheme, wearing a hijab should be simply a matter of choice. It may or may not be a matter of essential religious practice, but it still is, a matter of conscience, belief, and expression. If she wants to wear a hijab, even inside her classroom, she cannot be stopped, if it is worn as a matter of her choice, as it may be the only way her conservative family will permit her to go to school, and in those cases, her hijab is her ticket to education," the judge said.

In his 133-page verdict, Justice Gupta said religious belief cannot be carried to a secular school that gets state funds. "The State has not denied admission to the students from attending classes. If they choose not to attend classes due to the uniform that has been prescribed, it is a voluntary act of such students and cannot be said to be in violation of Article 29 by the State. It is not a denial of rights by the state but instead a voluntary act of the students. It would thus not amount to denial of the right to education if a student, by choice, does not attend the school," he ruled.

But Justice Dhulia saw in the restriction a possible denial of education to the girl child. "By asking the girls to take off their hijab before they enter the school gates, is first an invasion on their privacy, then it is an attack on their dignity, and then ultimately it is a denial to them of secular education...If the belief is sincere and it harms none else, there can be no justifiable reasons for banning hijab in a classroom," he said in his 73-page judgment.

Because of the split verdict, the high court's judgment will continue to prevail for now.

Verdict has further strengthened our hope: Student

One of the students, Aliya Assadi from Government PU College for Girls in Udupi, who had approached the Karnataka High Court insisting on allowing wearing of hijab inside classrooms, tweeted, "This judgement upheld the rights of victims. Hon'ble Justice Dhulia's statement has further strengthened our hope in fair judgement and constitutional values. Thousands of hijabi students are waiting to resume their education."

SHIBA PRASAD SAHU

Ban to continue in state till apex court gives final order: Nagesh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN the wake of the Supreme Court's split verdict on the hijab ban imposed by the state government, Karnataka Primary and Secondary Education Minister B C Nagesh said the ban will continue till the SC gives its final verdict. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said the government expects a clear verdict and will wait for the final judgement.

Bommai also said that the ban is now a national issue and not limited to Karnataka alone, as there are many dimensions to it. "We have seen this issue being raised at the national and even international level. It's a judicial matter. On the one hand, there is a request from students, and on the other, there is a government order. I can comment only after seeing the judgement," the CM added.

CONTINUED ON: P4

Ketto funds: ED chargesheets Ayyub

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Enforcement Directorate filed a chargesheet against journalist Rana Ayyub in a special court for allegedly misappropriating funds collected for relief and charity by creating personal assets and violating the foreign contribution law.

Rana Ayyub

The chargesheet alleged that Ayyub raised ₹2.69 crore through crowdfunding from foreign contributors illegally, and diverted major portions of it for personal gains.

The ED case is based on an FIR by the UP Police in September last year where it was alleged that Ayyub raised huge amounts of funds through Ketto, an online crowdfunding platform, in the name of relief work in Assam, Bihar and Maharashtra and to help Covid victims in India.

But the funds were received in the accounts of Ayyub's father and sister and subsequently transferred to her personal accounts, the ED said. It claimed that Ayyub utilised these funds to create a fixed deposit of ₹50 lakh for herself and transferred another ₹50 lakh in a new bank account. Only about ₹29 lakh was used for relief work, the ED stated.

For her part, Ayyub tweeted that the chargesheet is "yet another desperate attempt to target and intimidate me for my work, and yet another example of the abuse of the PMLA law and misuse of law enforcement agencies to silence me."

AAP Gujarat chief detained for 2.5 hrs in Delhi

Gopal Italia was on Thursday detained for over 2.5 hours by the Delhi Police after he appeared before the NCW in connection with alleged comments against PM Narendra Modi |P9

ISRO to replace ageing PSLV with new-gen rocket

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ T'puram

Visitors check out the model of a rocket at Engineers' Concalve 2022 exhibition in T'puram | VINCENT PULICKAL

THE Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is developing a rocket named Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV) to replace its ageing workhorse the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), which was developed in the 1980s.

Making this announcement at the at a press conference on the sidelines of the 'Engineers Conclave 2022' at the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre at Valiyamala here on Thursday, ISRO chairman S Somanath said, "PSLV was developed in the 1980s and it does not serve the needs of the 2020s. There needs to be an evolution." While refusing to give a time frame for retiring PSLV, he said that ISRO would stop using the rocket after completing the remaining launches approved by the government.

Asked about propulsion technology in the NGLV, Somanath said it would use 'semi-cryogenic' technology which is both efficient and cost-effective. He hinted that the new rocket could also be reusable. "A reusable rocket will have a smaller payload than an expendable one. If it is reusable, the payload will be five tonnes and if it's expendable, it will go up 10 tonnes," he added. Somanath said the payload parameters were arrived at after analysing the current market requirements.

The ISRO chief said participation of the industry is essential for the new rocket's development. This would ensure capability to launch it on a commercial basis, he added.

HD KOTE CASE

17 foresters booked over custodial death

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

SARAGUR police have booked 17 forest department officials in a case involving the custodial death of a tribal man Kariyappa in Gundre Range of Bandipur forest. The cases are registered under the Prevention of SC/STs Atrocities Act.

According to an FIR, police have booked Range Forest Officer Amruthesh, Deputy Range Forest Officer Karthik Yadav, two forest officials and 13 others in the case. Kariyappa, a native of Hosahalli village, was detained on charges of hunting a deer and possessing its meat. He died in the custody of forest officials and his family has alleged that he was tortured to death.

MLA Anil Chikkamadu visited the mortuary in K R Hospital where Kariyappa's body was kept. The MLA has demanded a CID probe into his death. Recalling that it is the second such incident in H D Kote taluk, the MLA said that the government should take the case seriously as injury marks were found on the body of the deceased. Chikkamadu also demanded that the government should give a job to a member of the Kariyappa family, besides paying compensation to his family.

Meanwhile, Kariyappa's body was handed over to his family members after a postmortem in the presence of a magistrate.

EXPRESS READ

K'taka bags 88 medals in National Games

Bengaluru: Karnataka won 88 medals, including 27 gold, in the 36th National Games that concluded in Gujarat on Wednesday. This is its best performance at the games | P5

Check for glycol, glycerin content, pharma cos told

Bengaluru: The Karnataka Drug Control Department on Thursday issued notices to drug-makers to study containers of drugs, and ensure that glycol and glycerin levels are as per norms | P3

2-month jail for BJP MLA Uday Garudachar

Bengaluru: BJP MLA Uday Garudachar was on Thursday sentenced to two months' imprisonment by a Bengaluru court for concealing information in his election affidavit | P4

M'LURU INITIATIVE

Marks cards at your doorstep soon

VINCENT D'SOUZA @ Mangaluru

WITH an aim to deliver all academic documents to the doorsteps of students through speed post, Mangaluru Department of Posts launched 'Project Mangala' at Karnataka Polytechnic College, Mangaluru (KPT) on Thursday.

Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Sriharaha N said, "When millions of documents like Aadhaar cards, passports, PAN cards, debit cards, ATM cards and cheque books can be delivered through post, why not marks cards?" He added, "Even medical and engineering colleges are sending MBBS and BE certificates to students through speed post."

Under 'Project Mangala', Sriharaha said, "The students just have to give in writing to the college before completion of the course and they are willing to receive their certificates through post. The postal department has approached the PU Board, all deemed universities and autonomous colleges in the region to make use of this facility." The documents can be delivered to any city in India through speed post. In the absence of students, any member of their family can receive the certificates. Students will be informed through SMS at various stages from booking to delivery. Status of delivery can be tracked at www.indiapost.gov.in.

EXPRESS INTAKE

Auto unions for more profit for drivers | P2

Ex-corporator held for forced conversion | P3

Rahul votes for Kannada in local biz | P4

Kerala horror: 3 sent to police custody | P5

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On the occasion of World Egg Day, NECC wishes everyone for a strong and healthy life.

NECC
NATIONAL EGG CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

Sunday ho ya Monday, Roz Khao Ande.